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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Voters send clear message on marriage

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi voters on November 2 set the pace for a large bloc of the national electorate that helped bring moral issues to the forefront of American politics, approving by the largest margin in the country a state constitutional amendment that defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

More than 1.1 million people voted in Mississippi on November 2, a figure that was declared a record by Mississippi Secretary of State Eric Clark.

"Mississippi took a giant step toward the affirmation of traditional marriage," said Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. "I want to say thank you to the people of Mississippi for letting the world know where we stand."

The Christian Action Commission sponsored an early-morning, pro-amendment rally on the south steps of the Capitol in downtown Jackson on October 27. The rally was well-attended by messengers and attendees on their way to the annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, which convened across the street at First Church, Jackson, after the rally.

"Mississippi voters are very conservative, and they saw no reason to change the blueprint for marriage that God designed for us," Porter said. "I was very impressed that the vote obviously crossed many of the old barriers that in the past kept Christians in Mississippi from working together on issues such as this. That's very encouraging for the future."

Baptists also played a major role in turning back the proposed legalization of hard liquor in Rankin County. A group of pro-



PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE — Mississippi Baptists kneel in prayer on the south steps of the Capitol in Jackson on October 27 on behalf of the state constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The amendment was approved on November 2 with nearly 86% of the votes cast. (Photo by Tony Martin)

alcohol supporters, composed mainly of out-of-county and out-of-state business interests, was promoting the legalization.

Rick Henson, pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon, spearheaded the anti-liquor drive for No-AL, a group backed by local Baptist churches, a number of prominent Rankin County Baptists, and Rankin Association.

"God is so good to give us the victory in

this election. The churches in Rankin County are to be commended for their prayer and financial support. We were able to get out the message that if this were approved, all that comes with being a wet county, could eventually be in Rankin County. Obviously the voters agreed. Thanks to all those in this convention for your prayers and support," Henson said.

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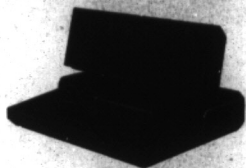
Miss. CP down in October

Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) in October showed a decrease when compared both to giving last month and for the same period in 2003, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds. The October total of \$2,221,772 is 21.48% less than the \$2,829,614 given last month, and 16.63% lower than the \$2,664,844 given in the same period in 2003. Total Mississippi CP giving for the current fiscal year, which runs from January-December, stands at \$25,635,539, which is .25% above last year's giving during the same period and .3% under current year budget needs. The 2004 Mississippi CP budget of \$30,854,971, was approved by messengers to the 2003 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. A total of \$2,609,716 is needed each of the two remaining months in the fiscal year to meet the convention board's budget for 2004. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP also helps fund such programs as the Missions Mobilization Celebration on November 12 at First Church, Jackson; Mission Service Corps Orientation on November 12 at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko; and GA Missions Madness on November 13 at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson.

SBC CP sees October rise

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for October were \$17,263,172.52, a rise of 28.87% over the \$13,395,514.98 received the previous month, and 9.66% more than the same month in 2003, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. The positive report in Southern Baptists' giving at the start of the SBC's Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year follows an overall 3.4% increase during the recently concluded fiscal year, when CP giving reached a record total of \$189,865,254.85. For October 2004, receipts of were \$1,520,262.01 above the \$15,742,910.51 received in October 2003. In designated giving, the \$3,201,437.67 received in October was \$174,748.37 below the \$3,376,186.04 received in October 2003, a decrease of 5.18%. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the \$17,263,172.52 received in October is \$1,996,364.68 more than the \$15,266,807.84 budgeted, or 113.08% of budget to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. The Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships for distribution according to the 2003-04 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**
Editor

EDITOR

William H. Perkins Jr.

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Doing their job, simply and finely

Today is Veteran's Day, November 11, 2004. Just like November 11, 1944, and November 11, 1952, and November 11, 1966, and too many other Novembers to list, America is at war to protect herself and preserve the extraordinary ideals that have made us the most free people in the world. Many men and women have died — and many more have been grievously injured — to guarantee, as Lincoln noted at Gettysburg, that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

One of our greatest rights in this country is our freedom to worship as we please, and we should all be profoundly grateful for the countless veterans who have ensured that right and our many of rights as citizens of the United States. It is more than a dark coincidence on this Veteran's Day 2004, that American soldiers, sailors, Marines, and pilots are engaged in mortal combat on the other side of the world to defend those rights against extremists who would destroy our very way of life.

As this issue goes to print, 10,000-15,000 young Americans are fighting their way through Fallujah, Iraq — a vile rat's nest of terrorists, mobsters, and murderers who have vowed to derail that country's march to democracy. While it seems almost the whole world is against them and their lives are literally at stake, the troops remain faithful to the call to serve their country. As with the many who went before and regardless of our opinion of the war, we should be in awe of their sacrifice, heroism, and devotion to duty.

One story that has made its way back to these shores tells of the young Marine who was injured in a massive roadside bombing

in Iraq a few weeks ago. Although his eardrums were ruptured and he sustained second degree burns on his head and neck, he knew his unit would probably be sent into Fallujah and pleaded with medical personnel to allow him to return to his post. He did return, and is probably in Fallujah right now.

Very few of us can really grasp such depth of bravery, and very few of us can really appreciate the millions of such sacrifices that have been made on our behalf — some even before we were born.

U.S. Army Major Charles W. Whittlesey was a World War I officer who was awarded the Medal of Honor for leading his surrounded and starving troops to battle the enemy to a standstill in northeastern France in October 1918. The legendary John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force, called Whittlesey one of the greatest soldiers of the Great War.

In a tribute to the soldiers who served under him penned some time after the end of the war, Whittlesey wrote, "I feel a bond of understanding and fellowship for the American soldier in every time and place, doing his job simply and finely, asking neither sympathy or praise. May the Armistice be lasting, and these great qualities find their true place in peace."



Honoring All Who Served

Veterans Day
November 11, 2004



We know that the Armistice didn't last, and that America was soon under threat again. The threats have kept coming, and the fine men and women have kept coming, too, to battle those threats. On this wartime Veteran's Day, may God bless them all, past and present, and may God bless America.

Editor's note: The following is a response to the guest opinion of November 4 by Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary, on Baptist Press reporting and editing that Kelley believes have not been fair to the seminary.

Kelley correctly stated, "...Bob Nigh, got the story right." But, Kelley expressed dismay at an editorial process that is altogether normal. The original lead paragraph contained two sentences; I edited only one: "The action in general complies with a recommendation approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Indianapolis, Ind. June 15, that the seminary trustees amend the institution's charter to name the Southern Baptist Convention as its sole member, but adds a stipulation that NOBTS President Chuck Kelley be allowed to explain reservations the trustees have concerning the issue to messengers to the 2005 SBC annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn."

I replaced this 72-word sentence with two shorter sentences that also added needed specificity in place of the unclear phrase "in general complies": "The actions fall short of the request made by Southern Baptist Convention messengers in June 2004 that the seminary adopt sole membership at their October, 2004, meeting by amending the

GUEST OPINION:



BP's editorial process normal

By Will Hall, Executive Editor
Baptist Press, Nashville

seminary's charter. But the language indicates that sole membership will be adopted and that seminary President Chuck Kelley will restate polity and legal concerns to messengers attending the 2005 annual meeting in Nashville, Tenn."

Except for minor grammatical edits, the substitution of the two sentences for the one in the lead paragraph is the only change I made to Bob's reporting about events at the trustee meeting. I added quotes from the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) attorney and the SBC Executive Committee general counsel. Kelley was quoted extensively and I sought inputs from the NOBTS trustee chairman.

Despite Dr. Kelley's claims, I did not "overturn" the BP reporter's story nor did I change a single "basic fact" of his draft. Bob worked for Baptist Press as a stringer. For the record, his paper's editor changed the draft, reducing it to only 25% of its former length before he published it.

Kelley wrote: "NOBTS trustees did vote ... to propose an amendment to our charter making the SBC the sole member as our legal corporation, ... They also voted to attach to that proposal a brief list of their concerns about sole membership in Louisiana and to have me explain their concerns to SBC messengers at the 2005 convention in Nashville."

Our report states that NOBTS trustees voted to propose an amendment to the NOBTS charter. What Kelley did not do is produce an amended charter for his trustees to approve. Yet, he criticized Baptist Press for publishing that the seminary had not approved an amended charter but had passed motions indicating their intent to do so.

For the record, we published both NOBTS motions as well as the motion passed by Convention messengers in June 2004. Using the link, <http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?ID=19355>, readers

can view our report for themselves rather than depend on anyone's description of it.

Kelley made an issue that Baptist Press has not responded to NOBTS complaints: The NOBTS public relations director wrote "We would greatly appreciate a headline and lead that positively reflects the board's deep commitment to do what the messengers requested."

You have read the portion of the lead paragraph in question. Our headline read "Sole membership motions fall short of request, but show intent." There is no remedy to make. Kelley accused Baptist Press of censorship, failing to let him adequately express his side. View our coverage for yourself and decide.

Go to <http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?ID=19355>, and after the question mark type separately for each article: ID=19355, ID=18668, ID=18525, ID=18507, ID=18503, ID=18086, ID=18087, ID=17679, ID=16847, ID=16843, ID=16842.

There has been no effort on my part to obfuscate with parsing of words; I have done my best to set the record straight with facts. Now, using Scripture, I will seek to resolve with Kelley the deeper spiritual issue that remains.

I welcome your prayers that enmity and strife will not continue to be perpetuated among men who call themselves brothers.

Homosexual movement backlash growing

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Beginning in the summer of 2003, homosexual activists piled up victory after victory, leaving pro-family leaders concerned. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down anti-sodomy laws, the Massachusetts high court legalized same-sex marriage, and the U.S. Senate failed to pass a constitutional marriage amendment.

In hindsight, homosexual activists may have triggered a backlash that did their cause more harm than good. President George W. Bush won re-election November 2, and exit polls suggest that same-sex marriage may have been the deciding factor — especially in Ohio.

The state that ended up deciding the presidential winner had a constitutional amendment on the ballot to ban same-sex "marriage." It passed overwhelmingly by a margin of 62-38%, and apparently brought out thousands of Christian voters.

According to exit polls, 25% of Ohio voters called themselves evangelical — higher than the national figure of 22%. Among those Ohio evangelicals, 76% voted for Bush. Compared to 2000, the 2004 election in Ohio saw an additional 900,000 voters cast ballots. Bush won this year by some 136,000 votes.

Could the amendment have been the difference? It's possible. During the campaign to pass the amendment, churches and pro-family groups were involved in registering 54,500 new voters. Thousands more who were registered but rarely voted are thought to have voted for the amendment and subsequently for Bush.

"I had seen polling data from six months ago that if this was on the ballot, that it would help the president by three to five percent," said Phil Burrell, who as chairman of the Ohio Campaign to Protect Marriage organized a petition drive to place the amendment on the ballot, "but that's not why I did it. I did it to protect marriage. Apparently, it did have an impact."

Ohio was one of 11 states to vote on constitutional marriage amendments on Election Day. All of them passed, and Mississippi provided the largest margin of victory in the country with nearly 86% in favor of the amendment. The amendments were driven by events of recent months, beginning last November when the Massachusetts high court handed down a ruling legalizing same-sex marriage. It took effect in May.

Elsewhere, the mayor of San Francisco earlier this year ordered city officials to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, in defiance of state law. In Oregon, commissioners in the state's most populous county voted to do the same.

The victories by same-sex marriage supporters left pro-family groups on the state level promising that it wouldn't happen in their state.

Ironically, the marriage amendment push was sparked in Democratic Party presidential candidate John Kerry's home state of Massachusetts. "The credit for this has to go back to the Massachusetts Supreme Court, because if they had not ruled on same-sex marriage, we would not have put this on the ballot," Burrell said.

The Ohio Campaign to Protect Marriage collected some 500,000 signatures to place the amendment on the ballot, and it mailed out 2.5 million pro-amendment bulletin inserts to thousands of churches across the state.

In the days leading up to the November 2 vote, the organization asked churches to call their members and urge a "yes" vote on the amendment. In addition, the Ohio Campaign to Protect Marriage placed an automated phone call to every household in the state — 2.9 million — and identified 850,000 amendment supporters, Burrell said.

On the day before the election, each of those Ohio supporters received a phone call with a recorded message from Republican Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell encouraging them to get out and vote for the amendment.

For years, Burrell has been trying to get churchgoers to the polls. Finally, he said, it worked. "I've been in the pro-family movement for 21 years, and we've been preaching this [pro-family] message and trying to get the church out to vote and trying to get them to be a values voter," he said. "This year it resonated."

The support for the amendment was widespread. Burrell said he even heard reports that the Amish, who rarely vote, registered simply to vote for the amendment. "They said, 'We're voting in this one.'"

Others apparently felt the same way. "A lot of elderly people had said that they had never voted before," Burrell said. "This did it."

The feeling among pro-family groups today stands in stark contrast to how they felt late last year. In June 2003 the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its *Lawrence v. Texas* decision overturning anti-sodomy laws. That same summer, the first provinces in Canada legalized same-sex "marriage." A few months later, Massachusetts' high court issued its ruling.

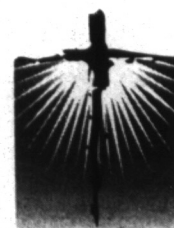
Homosexual activists were calling 2003 the "Gay Year," and they hoped to

continue their momentum with the 2004 election.

The major homosexual activist groups endorsed Kerry, who said he opposed both homosexual marriage and an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to ban homosexual marriage, but supported civil unions and even promised to nominate judges sympathetic to their cause.

Instead, those activist groups now are faced with perhaps their worst-case scenario: a conservative president with a conservative-leaning Senate. Both are critical in the makeup of the federal courts and the Supreme Court, since the president nominates judges and the Senate confirms them.

Both sides in the marriage debate expect that the Supreme Court eventually will take up a same-sex marriage case. "This



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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issue is going to be resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court, and it's not going to give a [expletive] what these state constitutions say," Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, told the Associated Press.

Evangelicals appear to be galvanized like never before. Burrell said that the same-sex marriage issue has made a bigger impact on political involvement than the abortion issue has. "What's going to make a difference with keeping the church motivated is that we have to be proactive," he said. "People don't like complaining and being reactive. They want to do something [and] they want to do something positive, and this is something that they can do, and that's why we're looking forward to next year to find another 10 or 15 states that will put the amendment on the ballot while we continue to work for a change in the U.S. Constitution."

Looking back

10 years ago

The school prayer debate flares again after Mississippi public school superintendents receive a letter earlier this month from the Mississippi chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, detailing "specifically prohibited" prayer practices. Mississippi Baptists are already planning their response.

20 years ago

Evelyn George, preschool and children's work consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Training Department, announces she will retire after more than 25 years at the Baptist Building.

50 years ago

Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, and Luther Joe Thompson, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, are featured speakers at the annual State Brotherhood Rally at First Church, Jackson, prior to the state convention. Standing room only is expected for the event.

Judge redefines marriage

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan (BP) — A judge in Saskatchewan legalized same-sex marriage November 5, making it the seventh Canadian jurisdiction to redefine marriage. "The common-law definition of marriage for civil purposes is declared to be the lawful union of two persons to the exclusion of all others," Justice Donna Wilson wrote in her five-page ruling, according to Canadian Press. The ruling means that six of Canada's 10 provinces now have legalized same-sex marriage. The Yukon is the only of the country's three territories with same-sex marriage. Judges have been involved in all seven marriage redefinition cases. The case began when five homosexual couples sued the Saskatchewan government, arguing that the traditional definition of marriage was discriminatory. The provincial government did not defend the law, paving the way for the judge to make her ruling. It is not being appealed. The provinces of Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia all have same-sex marriage. The federal government, run by the Liberal Party, is moving to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide. The past year has seen the United States and Canada move in opposite directions on the marriage issue. A total of 11 American states voted to constitutionally ban same-sex marriage on November 2, with Mississippi providing the largest margin of victory (86%-14%). Although polls show roughly one-half of Canada's citizens oppose same-sex marriage, the nation's leaders have moved to legalize it. Prime Minister Paul Martin supports same-sex marriage. Meanwhile, Americans oppose same-sex "marriage" by a margin of two-to-one, polls show. President Bush, who favors a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, was re-elected November 2, and conservative Republicans made gains in the Senate.



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your own words:

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(I have sinned.)
 2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death.
(I repent.)
 3. I believe Jesus died and
rose from the grave to
forgive my sins and to restore
my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
 4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ
into my life. From this time on,
I want to live in a
loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my
Savior and Lord.)
- But as many as received him, to
them he gave the right to
become children of God, even to
those who believe in his name
(John 1:12).

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact
a local Baptist church for
spiritual guidance.

ELECTION EVALUATION

I suppose for most of us there is a sense of relief that the big November 2 election is now in our rearview mirror. It seemed like the campaigns went on for years. Unbelievably, on the day after the election even before the concession or acceptance speeches were made, the talking heads were jabbering about who will be the candidates four years from now. I suppose an argument could be made that we no longer have anyone who governs;+ we just have people who keep on running for offices.

I think it would be worthwhile to stop and think about the election that just took place and especially on a state and local basis here in Mississippi. While the largest number of people who ever voted for president came out in 2004, the largest number ever to vote in Mississippi also went to the polls — just over 1,080,000. While there were no doubt presidential concerns, there were also other issues and candidates on the ballot in the 82 counties of Mississippi. One of the most significant decisions revolved around a constitutional amendment that affirmed biblical traditional marriage between a man and a woman as the only recognized marital state in Mississippi. While God does not wait for us to decide on our definition of marriage, it is refreshing to see that Mississippians went to the polls and by an 86% margin said that the way God designed marriage is the way it ought to be in our state.

The vote was very positive for a positive amendment. The amendment was not an attack on other people so much as it was a statement of convictions about what the home and family is suppose to be. Of the 13 states across the nation that have voted on similar proposals, I applaud you Mississippi for leading the entire nation in the percentages of voters who underscore their desire to see and build biblical homes. While the vote was encouraging, may I take



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

this opportunity to encourage each of us to give attention to our own home, our own family, and strengthen the home of which we are a part.

While I am opposed to same sex marriages, I cannot overlook the destruction that is taking place in the marriages that we consider to fit the right definition. The number of divorces in our land and in our state continues to grow and the number of children affected by divorce continues to escalate. It is my prayer that God will help us to give as much attention to the right substance in the marriage as we do to the right structure of marriage. There are far too many marriages that fit the definition of what we think marriage ought to be that are filled with hatred and rage, griping and ungodliness, and serve as a model of dislike and discontent more than a model of love and encouragement. I am thankful for the stand that Mississippians took, but now let's turn and raise the standards of being good parents, godly mates, and gracious members of the family.

Another vote that was local but received statewide attention was a referendum allowing liquor sales in fast-growing Rankin County. It was a vote to permit wine and liquor sales at restaurants and bars and it had been on the ballot before. For anyone who comes to the Jackson area and crosses through Rankin County you know that all across the Rankin area, growth is taking place. Businesses, shops, schools, and home developments are popping up everywhere. The people of Rankin County are proud of what is taking place. A number of folks felt that to keep the growth going and good things

happening they had to be progressive enough to vote in the liquor sales referendum. It was voted down! It was beaten overwhelmingly and soundly. The Rankin County folks did a great job. They stood up, voted, and were heard. The coalition formed and made a tremendous difference. Churches and church leaders spoke up. Business people, who recognized the harm that would be brought by the liquor sales, joined hands and the community across the board said, "We don't need that."

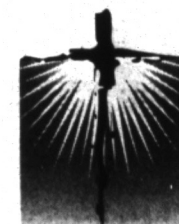
On Election Day both of those votes reminded me that it might be interesting to see what the results would be if Mississippi folks had the opportunity to vote on other issues where we were not permitted to do so. What if the entire state voted on whether or not to have casino gambling? I remind you that this was an action taken by the legislature not by the state populace. Mississippians did not vote on beer and alcohol sales. The way it came into our culture was through our state legislature allowing local option votes. I may be wrong, but even today it would be an interesting thing to have a statewide referendum on beer and alcohol sales and see how the people in Mississippi would actually

vote. It would be an interesting contest and the results could be surprising.

One last thought about the big election on November 2. The exit polling done across the nation revealed something that the-know-it-all media still finds hard to believe. When asked, "What is the main concern you had as you voted for the president?" the polling revealed that the number one concern for people was moral issues. The media writers and talkers were amazed. You have got to be kidding. People are more concerned about moral issues than they are about terrorism or the economy. Why would morals even enter into their thought process? It is a good thing when a large percentage of the population comes to understand that morals and character make an enormous difference in how a person governs and how it affects our nation. As the scripture says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

The election is over and in the days and years to come we will vote on different people and different issues. May God bless and guide us to look to Him and seek to do the right thing.

The author may be contacted at
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-
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HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 11, 2004

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

ANNUAL MISSIONS CELEBRATION 2005

MISSISSIPPI
CHRIST FOLLOWERS
APRIL 8-9, 2005 - FBC, BILOXI

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

8 a.m.-noon Ministry Projects*
3:30-4:30 p.m. Prayer & Share Celebration
5-6:15 Missions Banquet
6:30 Worship Celebration & Acts 1:8



Commissioning Service

Featuring:
Mississippi Choctaw
Women's Choir
and
Dramatist: Laurita Miller

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

7:30 a.m. Former Executive Board Breakfast
8:45-10 Conferences
10:15 Worship Celebration & Business Session
1:00 p.m. Adjourn
*AMC 2005 Ministry Projects

**One person.
Giving One Day =
One Changed Life**

During AMC 2005, you will have the opportunity to participate in ministry projects all across the Mississippi Gulfcoast. Ministry Projects will be planned for Friday, April 8th, from 8:00 a.m.-noon. Keep your eyes open for more information from the Mississippi WMU and registration.

"I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings becoming like Him in His death. (Philippians 3:10 NIV)

In Christ's Steps

2005 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE *with choices*

MONDAY

1:30 p.m. "In Christ's Steps—Holiness"
3:00 "In Christ's Steps—Servant Leadership"
(Monday Afternoon Sessions in the Fellowship Hall)
Praise and Worship, Karen Fisk
Testimonies
Special Music
Keynote Speaker
Prayer Time and Fellowship
5:00 Dinner break on your own
6:30 Monday Evening Session
(All together for the State Evangelism Conference in the Worship Center)

TUESDAY

9 a.m. "In Christ's Steps"
Praise and Worship
Testimony
Special Music
Keynote Speaker, Rhonda Kelley
Prayer Time
11:30 Lunch break on your own
1:30 "Follow in Christ's Steps"
Praise and Worship
Prayer and Share Time
Special Music
Keynote Speaker
Commitment Music
Contact our state WMU for more info on the Women's Track.

January 24-25
Temple Baptist Church
Hattiesburg



Rhonda Kelley
Keynote Speaker



Karen Fisk
Worship Leader

Rhonda Kelley is the wife of the president of New Orleans Baptist Seminary where she is also professor of women's ministry.

Karen Fisk is the "former minister of music at Silverena B.C. and a member of "One Voice."

Testimonies by:
Evelyn Williams, Hickory
Janet Rayford, Crestwood New Life
Ceal Pate, FBC, Greenwood

The Women's State
Visionary Team and
the host church will
welcome you.

COMPASSIONATE LEADERS EXCHANGE NETWORK

for Women's Leadership

**Saturday, March 19
Camp Garaywa
Patterson Place, Clinton
9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.**

A time of sharing and networking for leaders who work with Women's Enrichment, Women on Mission and/or Women's Evangelism. If you need Friday night lodging, please call Camp Garaywa, 601.924.3074, for information. Please send your name, address, E-mail, phone number, your leadership position, church name/association and \$15 per person to:
**C.L.E.N.-WMU Dept.
P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.**
Registration covers snacks, materials and lunch.

Please register by March 19, 2005.



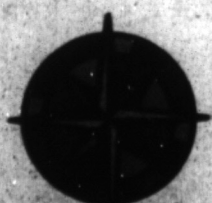
Chal/ YEC 2004 Challenge

Can You Hear Me Now?

Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference

*A.E. WOOD COLISEUM
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON
DECEMBER 30-31, 2004*

This YEC is made possible by gifts through the Cooperative Program to Mississippi Baptist.



Christ Followers

Idea Swap – Acts of Kindness

Adopt a shut-in or senior adult in your church or community that can no longer care for their yard. Help clean up their flower beds, prune shrubbery, or plant flowers for them.

Plan now to . . . Spring into Action: Give away light bulbs door to door in your community (you can put a label on the package with a scripture or a word of encouragement from your church). Ask residents for prayer request and then meet back at the church for a time of prayer for your communities needs.

February 14-20, 2005 (or any time in February)

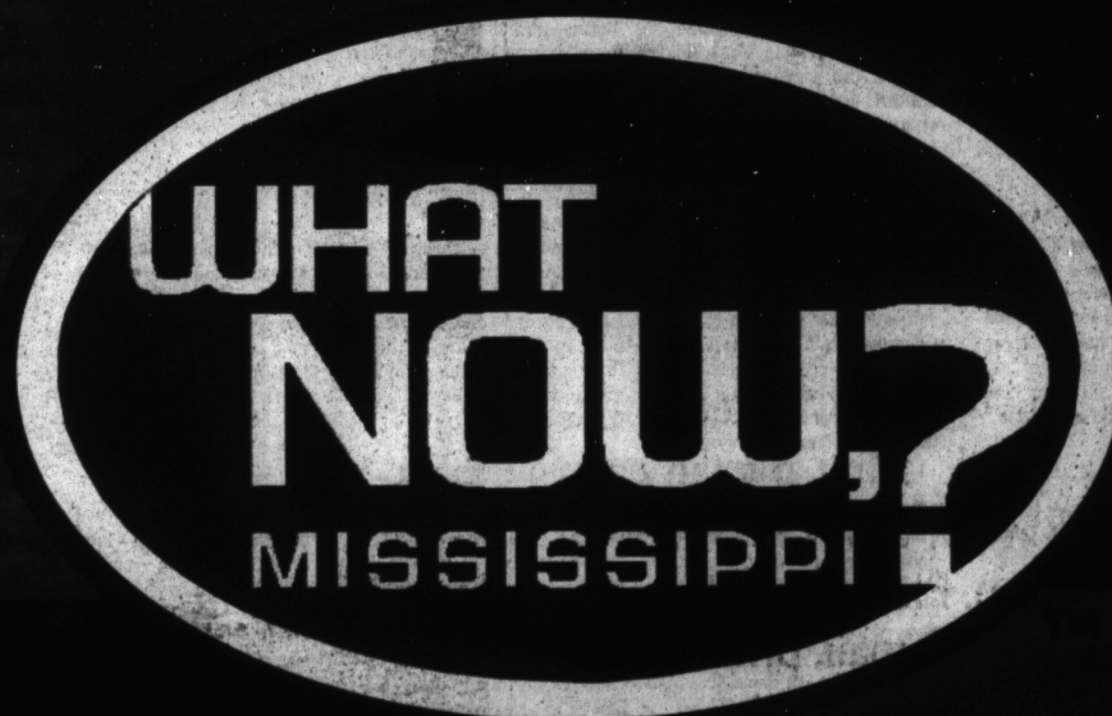
"A SPECIAL DAY FOR CHRIST FOLLOWERS"

During "Focus on WMU" make it an incredible week to "Focus on Missions through your WMU organizations" by conducting the Edwina Robinson Special Day emphasis. Use whatever time you have whether it's only an hour and/or all week, to lead your people to do acts of kindness and give to the Edwina Robinson Special Day Offering. Use the information from your Special Day materials. "A Special Day for Christ Followers" can provide an excellent theme to get all age groups in your church involved in doing missions.

2005 State Evangelism Conference

January 24-25

Temple Baptist
Church
Hattiesburg



MUSIC:

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Paul Koonce &
Temple Baptist
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Choir and
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Paid in Full*

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Ed Young
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601-292-3278
E-mail: esmith@mbcb.org

The Christian Performing Arts Festival offers something for the entire church family: conferences to help your church staff be more creative in the worship services; to better equip youth ministers/leaders for youth ministry and mission opportunities; to examine great old and new approaches to recreation; and to explore ways to use media, puppetry, clowning and drama.

These conferences are planned for both adults and students, and our hope is that you will consider being a part of this weekend in 2005.

If you have any questions about the festival, please contact
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redwards@mbcb.org.



Pray this day for...

November 12 - December 2, 2004

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Prayer is spending time with the one who created us and knows exactly what we need. It's learning to trust that when God's answer is something other than a quick yes, it's still the perfect answer that will bring us far more than we can ask or imagine..."

Jane A. G. Kise, "FATHER KNOWS BEST" in Discipleship Journal

"English Corners" are a long-standing tradition on university campuses in China. Some are quite informal, with no set format, while others are designed to allow for maximum sharing of the Good News. Ask God to guide in each presentation and discussion so that many can hear of the Savior's love.

Pray for Amy Elrod of the urban poor church planting team who has been serving as a journeyman in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She recently decided to extend her service for a new two-year term. Ask God to bless her as she continues to serve the Lord in the slums of Rio as a nurse and translator.

For: (1) Season of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (WMU Emphasis); (2) Pray for national partner and the small groups with whom he is working. He is working in Lubumbashi, the second-largest town in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Missionaries serving in Brazil on the border with Paraguay and Argentina ask, "Please pray for the Three Frontiers ministries now underway: several simple church services, and group Bible studies. Also, pray for our new converts and local Brazilian churches that are getting more involved in these ministries."

(1) Jeff Ford, Gulf Shores, Ala., is the director of resort ministries for the Baldwin Association. Pray for mission minded teams and volunteers to partner together in ministry on the Gulf Coast. (2) Lift up workers among the Cymry Cymraeg of Wales as they seek to build up relationships with people that will lead to opportunities for witness and new work.

"Please pray for our Mandaya Ministry Co-op that provides pigs to needy pastors," writes the Mandaya Team in the Philippines. They are raising these pigs to pay back to the co-op on a 50/50 basis. Pray that the co-op will be well managed to provide livelihood and money for evangelizing."

Pray for the ministry of evangelism among the Bobo Fing people of Mali. Pray that someone will develop a program of literacy among them and that the Scriptures will be translated into their language. When this is done, pray that the JESUS film will be dubbed into their language.

Pray for the Muslims of Bulgaria in the southeastern region between the Balkan Mountains and the Turkish and Greek borders. Pray for the many mountain villages where there are no believers. Pray that the Lord will send workers into this harvest field.

Last year some of you rejoiced with a missionary over the salvation of a young man who had tried to commit suicide three times. He and his mother and father all accepted Christ and have become faithful in the church. Continue to pray for him as he grows and prepares himself to serve Christ.

Margaret Patterson, Ducktown, Tenn., is director of the Crisis Center Ministry with the Copper Basin Association, and Al Patterson is director of missions. Please pray for a new building, for clothes, and for a bailer and forklift for excess clothing.

Pray for Mr. A., a young man living in a small community in Karnataka, India. He had been possessed by an evil spirit for four years, and the Lord recently delivered him. Mr. A. now believes in Jesus. As a result, two large extended families have also become believers. Pray for full spiritual healing among millions of lost people in Karnataka.

As Baptist representatives David and Tina Taylor study Hungarian in the city of Győr, please pray that they will develop a rapid grasp of the pronunciation and grammar and become fluent in Hungarian. Pray that they will be able to impart words of life and hope in Christ to the people around them.

China has a growing drug problem, with 1 million known drug addicts in China, mostly young unemployed, uneducated men. Pray for God's protection on the young men of China, and for the Good News of Jesus Christ to permeate all the communities of China so that those feeling the pains of life can find hope in Christ.

An Van Pham, Duluth, Ga., is an Asian missionary for the Georgia Baptist Convention. Pray that many international students will find Christ.

Ken Welbom, New York, N.Y., is executive director of the diplomatic ministry to the United Nations. Pray for receptive hearts among all of the world leaders.

For: (1) Missions Mobilization Celebration, FBC, Jackson, 6-9 p.m. (MMOB); (2) Mission Service Center Orientation, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 4 p.m., 12th - noon, 14th (MM); (3) Pray that Indonesian Christians will take up the call to go to Aceh and minister in Jesus' name.

For: (1) G.A. Missions Madness, Colonial Heights BC, Jackson, (WMU); (2) Missions Mobilization Conference; Baptist Building, (MMOB); (3) George T. Russ is the Director of Evangelism for the Baptist Convention of N.Y. Pray for churches as they reach out into communities through servant evangelism projects.

"In the 1970's, I was pastor of a church of about 100 Muslim background believers in the Philippines. Religious leaders burned our homes and church. We were scattered, never knowing what happened to one another. Today while praying, God led us to a home with 12 believers from our former church whom we had not seen for 30 years." Pray for wisdom and boldness for new churches now facing persecution.

Give thanks to God that despite official bans on Sunday School for children, many Chinese Christians are intent on teaching God's Word to children. During one hot week in August, 100 peasant farmers representing over 40 different village churches received training in how to start Sunday Schools. Pray that God will protect them.

Please pray for the wives of seminary students traveling across the country to the seminary in Lilongwe, Malawi. They will attend classes for one week in Bible study, English, children's ministry, and more. Pray for those in the graduating class to keep a close relationship with God so that He will direct their ministries.

Jeff Christopherson, Oakville, Ontario, is pastor of The Sanctuary in Oakville, a 2-year-old church that is planting six congregations in the Toronto area and in the Middle East. Pray for quiet hearts to know clearly where God is leading and a continued boldness to follow Him in faith.

THE SUIT PROJECT

Mississippi Baptists say "Merry Christmas" to pastors in the Colorado Baptist Convention.

What is it?

For over 40 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas. This is our way of letting the pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know that we care about and support them in their work.



Get all decked out!

What can you do?

Men's Ministry, RA, and WMU groups, individuals, churches, etc., can send their gifts payable to:

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HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



William G. Dowdy, pastor and Jimmy Hamblin



Senior Adults of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson



Jerry Bishop, pastor; Melba & Mike Ramey

The senior adult mission team of **Woodland Hills Church, Jackson**, recently repaired the porch of an elderly woman in the Appalachian foothills of Virginia. Pictured (from left) are Shirley Fulton, Arla Whittington, Martha Mitchell, Minnie Meadows, John Emory, Granville Fulton, and Lester Whittington.

Mugs and Mingling for Ladies was held October 24 at **Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur**. Coordinating the series, *Becoming A Vessel God Can Use*, are pictured (from left) Lynn Selman, Janine Vincent, and Sherry Craft. Fifty-two ladies enjoyed the study, fellowship, and refreshments. Those attending were asked to bring along their favorite mug for coffee.

Society Hill Church, Oakvale, went on their annual Mexico mission trip in June. The team works on a church, holds revival and VBS. Their main destination was La Nariz, but they also went to Valdez, Village North, Por Vinir, and Sonoytia.

Cairo Church, Ecu, held Pastor Appreciation Day October 24. Pictured (from left) are William G. Dowdy, pastor, accepting an appreciation plaque and other gifts from Jimmy Hamblin.

Adam Bobo was presented a Certificate of License by Dennis Duvall, pastor of Hope Church, Philadelphia, during the morning worship service August 22. Duvall also presented Bobo with a Bible dictionary. A reception followed in his honor.

First Church, Lauderdale, recently ordained **Mike Ramey** as a deacon. Jerry Bishop, pastor, preached the ordination service. Pictured (from left) are Bishop, Ramey's wife Melba, and Ramey.

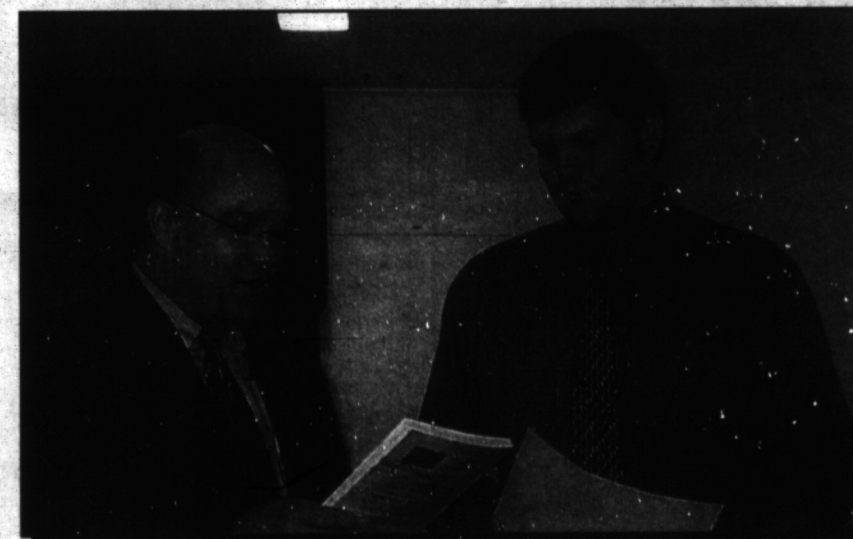
Sylvarena Church, Wesson, held a deacon ordination service Oct. 10. Ordained were Randle Drane and Jerry Westbrook. Other deacons participating were John Landress, Curtis Davis, Jerry Carter, Dale Lowery, Randy Reynolds, and Tony Waltman.



Deacons of Sylvarena Church, Sylvarena



Lynn Selman, Janine Vincent, and Sherry Craft



Dennis Duvall, pastor and Adam Bobo

COLLEGE NEWS

The Christian Legal Society at the **Mississippi College School of Law** has heard a number of speakers in recent weeks. Justice George Carlson, Justice Kay Cobb, and Justice James Graves of the Mississippi Supreme Court and Professor Sid Moller have shared inspiring messages based on favorite scripture passages with the law students.

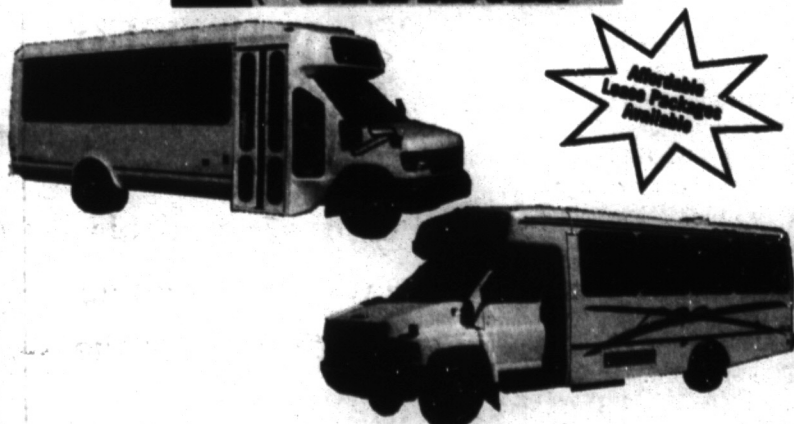
Mississippi College School of Law conducted a ribbon cutting October 27 to open the new classroom building at the Law School campus in Jackson.



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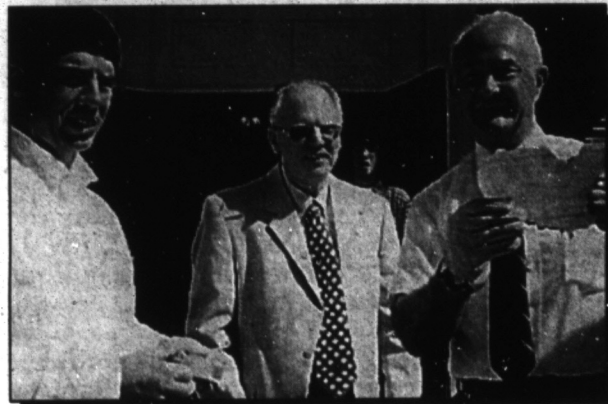
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Barry Boquet, pastor and Jessie Jones



Leaksville Note Burning, Leaksville

Staff Changes

The Perry County Baptist Association, New Augusta, has called **Bob Goolsby** as full-time missions director effective November 1. Bob has served as part-time director since January 2002.

North Batesville Church, Batesville, has called **Andy Brasher**, Como, as pastor. Brasher served as pastor at Como church for nearly a decade. He has two sons, Drew and Aaron, and will relocate to Batesville in the spring.

Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, will sponsor the **Holiday Marketplace**, Nov. 13, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., including Christmas gifts, baked goods, jellies, stocking stuffers and more. Free admission; lunch available. Proceeds to benefit the building fund.

Bethesda Church, Terry, recently ordained **Jessie Jones**, Raymond, as a deacon. Pictured (from left) are Barry Boquet, pastor, and Jones.

First Church, Leakesville, held a note burning ceremony Oct. 17. Pictured, from left, are Ricky Dickson; Dale Younce, interim pastor; and Marvin Blankinship.

Tuscumbia Church, Booneville, celebrated with their children Aug. 29. The two



Morton Church Senior Adults, Morton

groups of **TeamKid** classes sang and recited Bible verses they learned over the past year. Pictured are the 3's through K and 1-6th grade groups.

First Church, Terry, exceeded its goal of \$2000 for the **Margaret Lackey State Missions** offering by giving \$2,550. John Pace is the pastor.

Ebenezer Church, Liberty, will host **Steve Walker**, music evangelist, Pinola, in concert Nov. 14, 11 a.m. A love offering will be taken. Charles Kirkfield, pastor.

Hebron Baptist, Smithdale, will host **Steve Walker**, music evangelist, Pinola, in concert Nov. 14, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Rob Westbrook, pastor.

Calvary Church, Pascagoula, sent a mission team to Ukraine in September for a 10-day effort, passing out over 1000 Bibles. Thirty-five people received Christ during their visit. Pictured are, from left, Don Womble, Merle Ivy, Johnny Beaver, Robyn Trout, and Kenna Byrd.

Sylvarena Church, Wesson, will host **One Voice** in concert, Nov. 14, 7 p.m. **One Voice** is sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; **Graham Smith**, director. A love offering will be taken.

Fifteen senior adults from **First Church, Morton**, attended the annual Senior Adult Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Pictured are the participants.



Mission Trip Participants, Calvary Church, Pascagoula



Tuscumbia 3's - K TeamKids, Booneville



Tuscumbia 1st - 6th grade TeamKids, Booneville

HOMEcomings & REVIVALS

Horseshoe Church, Tchula: Homecoming, Nov. 14; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch following; **Perry Irvin**, pastor.

Unity Church, Ripley: Bible Conference, Nov. 15-17; services, 9 a.m. - noon and 7 p.m.; meals served, nursery provided; **John Phillips**, **Tom Hayes**, preaching; the **Wills Family**, **Dennis Erwin** Family, and **Ronnie Blake**, music; **Ronnie Barefield**, pastor.

Phillipston Church, Sidon: Revival and Homecoming, Nov. 12-14; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. worship, covered dish following. **Charlie Hood**, **Monroe**, La., preaching.

West McComb, McComb: 50th Anniversary and Homecoming, Nov. 14; 9:45 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. worship; lunch, noon.

MS POSITIONS

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, Goodman, Miss., is currently seeking a full-time pastor. A traditional SBC, resident membership 95. Send resumes or contact to Main Street Baptist Church, pastor search committee, Billy May, chairman, P.O. Box 206, Goodman, MS 39079.

IS MUSIC YOUR MINISTRY? Do you have a heart for youth? **Immanuel Baptist Church**, Vicksburg, Miss., is accepting resumes for minister of music/youth/education. Send to personnel committee chairman, Immanuel Baptist Church, 6949

Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CORINTH, Miss., seeks full-time Associate pastor for Christian education & administration. Position responsible for overall church programs and church affairs administration. FBC has 825 resident members. Successful candidate will be seminary graduate with excellent interpersonal skills and experience in similar position. Mail resumes to FBC search committee, 501 Main Street, Corinth, MS 38834.

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apply online please visit www.cascadehills.com/job_app/index.asp.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH PASTOR position (grades 6-8). We are looking for a strong leader with a great track record of growth to join the focused team of a 7,000 member church. Excellent package offered. Seventeen (17) middle schools within a 30 minute drive. For more information and to apply online please visit www.cascadehills.com/job_app/index.asp.

SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF music/worship leader for a southern baptist congregation that engages in a blended style of worship. The church's television ministry covers a five state area. Seminary degree preferred. Submit resume to music search committee, attn: music office, 2890 Broadway, Paducah, KY 42001.

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND YOUTH: Aliceville First Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister to serve and equip our church in music and youth ministries. Please send resumes to search committee, 323 Broad Street, Aliceville, AL 35442. Or call (205) 373-2386 for more information. **CHURCH FEW UPHOLSTERY**, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

God Rules

Psalm 33:6-17,20-22

By Geneva England

Nature, apart from Adam and Eve's curse, was God's perfect creation; nature, apart from human interference, portrays God's perfect balance. In other words, God took what the first two sinful humans "messed up" and restored order. Even after all the years of human misuse and abuse of the universe, God continues to maintain His creation. God is not only the Creator of man and nature; He is also the Provider and Sustainer. The psalmist rightly proclaims that "the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord" (v. 5).

I. DISPLAY OF GOD'S AUTHORITY (PSALM 33:6-11)

Next, the psalmist enumerates the creative acts of God in a similar, but not exact, order. First, after painting the heavens in all their starry beauty, He then gathered the waters. God's command steadied

the turbulent waters and all the earth "stood firm" (v. 9, NIV). Exell suggested that the psalmist's wording, "He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap" (v. 7), not only describes creation but also alludes to the parting of the Red Sea.

Fear and awe are mentioned in verse 8. These are human emotions that should be incorporated into our worship of God. Fear should be a reverent attitude for God rather than a superstitious fear. Moreover, God's power, His omniscience, and His omnipresence should fill our hearts with awe because He has rescued our souls from eternal damnation into eternal salvation.

Moving forward in history, the psalmist praises God's authority over all human actions (v. 10). Abundant examples may be found in the Old Testament wherein God changed the hearts



England

of wicked rulers or used them to punish the Hebrew nation for its sins, such as Nebuchadnezzar and Jehu. God led and guided His chosen people — the Hebrew nation — into the Promised Land with a patient, fatherly love, just as He will lead and guide His children today until His return.

God's authority remains constant with His purpose (v. 11); however, many times humans mistakenly think they are in control. The psalmist declares differently. Paul further proclaims that "the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God...His judgments, and His ways [are] past finding out" (Rm. 11:33). God's supreme and unchanging "counsel" provides believers with a rock of confidence for our hope in Christ.

II. EXTENT OF GOD'S AUTHORITY (PSALM 33:12-17)

These verses sound a strong warning to all nations of our present generation concerning their claims to strength and military

might. In the psalmist's day, nothing could save the nations which God had marked for destruction — not the warriors' loyalty and physical power, or the horses' swiftness and strength, or the king's army size (vv. 15-17). This is likewise true today. God's authority as sovereign Lord means He controls the destiny of all nations and all peoples of all ages. The admonition in verse 12 is the key to receiving God's grace: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Fellow Christian, let's rejoice that we, as individual believers, are the "people He chose for His inheritance" (v. 12, NIV), but let's also remember that in order to enjoy His blessings fully, we must live in submission to His will.

III. EFFECT OF GOD'S AUTHORITY (PSALM 33:20-22)

Because the Lord is our Rock of salvation, we confidently "wait in hope" for His "help" and "shield" (v. 20, NIV). To wait conveys conviction, desire, hope, and patience (Exell). It also implies individual faith in a sovereign God. Faith is defined as "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do

not see" (Heb. 11:1, NIV). Furthermore, "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible" (v. 2, NIV).

Verse 20 of our text is similar to my personal favorite Psalm: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (46:1). There are so many comfort verses that believers can rest peacefully knowing that God has a special watch over His chosen children. His "eyes" are on those who (1) "fear Him" and those whose (2) "hope is in His unfailing love"; these He will deliver from eternal punishment and give aid in times of trouble (Ps. 33:18-19).

We have God's further assurance and comfort in these words: "The angel of the Lord encamps around those that fear him, and He delivers them" (Ps. 34:7, NIV). "If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rm. 8:31).

Can there be any doubt that God's authority is awesome!

England is a member of First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

A New Communication

Luke 11:1-13

By James Walters

Prayer was so prominent a feature of our Lord's life that His disciples were impressed, (Luke 11:1). They asked Him to teach them how to incorporate that virtue into their own life. "Lord, teach us to pray," they asked. The question implies an awareness of need, as well as, an honest confession of ignorance about how appropriately to pray. Jesus responded by teaching a prayer which outlines the priorities of a Christian. The Lord's Prayer highlights the concerns our Master felt should be at the heart of what are to be the desires and wishes of those who want to be like Him.

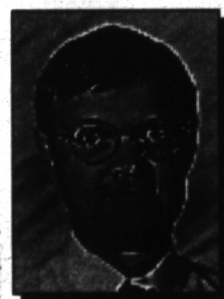
We can evaluate the significance and relevance of prayer in many ways, but prayer is fundamentally the talking part of our relationship with God. We need always to be on speaking terms with the Lord. Are we? And what are the concerns which motivate

us to pray? Do our concerns rise to the high level of those expressed in the Lord's Prayer?

At the heart of this teaching on prayer is not so much whether or not we believe in the effectiveness of prayer, but do we pray. Jesus did not say "If" you pray, say such and such. He said "When" you pray. In defence of his frequent absences from church a man told his pastor that he could worship God and pray just as easily on the golf course on Sunday as he could in church. To his surprise his pastor agreed, but then answered, "The question is not can you worship and pray on the golf course on Sunday, but do you?" The answer of course was no! Believing in the value of prayer is not the issue; whether or not we do, in fact, pray is.

PERSONAL, INCLUSIVE PRAYER, LUKE 11:1-4

In a week my oldest daughter,



Walters

Rebecca, is due to deliver her second child. This will be our third grandchild. We have prayed so much. "Bless 'my' daughter and 'my' grandchild," I have asked the Lord. Last year when my daughter, Angela, delivered her child two months premature, we prayed, "God bless 'our' daughter, and 'our' grandchild." These were all very personal requests.

One noticeable feature of the Lord's Prayer is how personal it is. We are taught to pray to "our" Father in heaven. We are to ask provision for "our" daily bread, and forgiveness of "our" trespasses. We pray that God will not lead "us" into temptation, but to deliver "us" from evil. The personal, inclusive nature of prayer is prominent. In fact, if we do not care one way or the other for the things about which we pray, why bother? Also if we do not pray for personal, relevant, and important concerns to us, do we really care?

PRAY PERSISTENTLY, LUKE 11:5-10

Somewhere I read a story about a monastery in days gone

by which functioned as a relief center for the poor and needy. A certain man approached the huge front doors and knocked. No one came. He knocked again. Still no one came. For nearly a half hour, which seemed like an eternity, he stood and knocked. Finally a monk came and let him in. "I've been knocking so long. Why didn't you come sooner?" he asked.

The monk explained, "The neighborhood children enjoy coming up to the door, knocking, and then running away. They hide to watch us open the door and find no one there. We have learned to ignore them. We have also learned that if someone is in real need they will continue to knock until someone opens the door."

If the sincerity of our prayer were judged by how persistent we are, would we pass the test? Jesus encourages us to ask, seek, and knock. Persistence is required. One of the things I learned in graduate school is that the degree does not necessarily go to the most intelligent. Many get frustrated and drop out. The degree goes to those who have persevered. Is determined persistence a feature of our prayer life, or have we long since given up?

PRAY EXPECTANTLY, LUKE 11:11-13

The best gift God can give, many of us already have received. That gift is the Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us to anticipate a positive response from God when we pray. Like any good father, God will never neglect us. It feels sometimes, however, that He has. We can't see God caring, or sense Him watching over us. Could it be that we have sometimes asked God for a stone thinking it is bread? Perhaps, we have prayed for what God knows is a serpent, even though we think it is an egg? In retrospect, I am delighted God did not give me some of the things I have thought were so necessary to me. Maybe everyone can say the same thing.

God will provide, but is it not best for us to allow God to use His own judgment to determine how to answer us? God gives us good things. Let us pray for wisdom to accept what God is doing in our life. Some things will never be given us by a loving father. There is no limit, however, to the good things caring fathers will give for their children.

Walters is member of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and

white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

All news items are subject to editing, and

all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 100, Jackson, MS 39205-0100. FAX: (601) 944-1111. baptistrecord@comcast.net

WCC to host Gulfport fellowship

William Carey College (WCC) Gulfport campus will host a Coast Alumni Fellowship Meeting on November 16 at 6 p.m. in Parker Hall Auditorium on the Gulfport campus.

The program will include information about the Jubilee Celebration recognizing WCC's 50th anniversary of the name change from Mississippi Woman's College, Carey's Homecoming 2005, and a presentation on the current state of the college.

Alumni are encouraged to bring their families. Prospective students are also invited to attend. Light refreshments will be provided. The event is offered to alumni admission-free. For more information contact Pam Cruse, WCC assistant director of alumni relations, at (601) 318-6561 or toll-free (800) 962-5991 ext. 561.

Bibliocipher

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AHQME ULMQTHMX LI

XPQG SHCB XPQME,

XPDX PH NPQUP PDXP

AHEFM D ELLT NLCW

QM BLF NQKK RHCILCJ

QX FMXQK XPH TDB LI

VHGFG UPCQGX.

RPQKQRRQDMC
LMH: GQO

Clue: E = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Colossians 1:21

Voter interest in moral values applauded

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Many politicians and reporters hadn't placed much emphasis on moral values in recent months, but they found reason to rethink their negligence once the nation's November 2 votes began rolling in.

"For the sake of the soul of our land, it was appropriate that moral values bubbled up... at the polls yesterday — and there was an incredible contrast in the choice voters had on that issue," Robert E. (Bob) Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board in Atlanta, said in a Nov. 3 statement to Baptist Press.

"With easily the largest voter turnout in U.S. history," Reccord added, "this election was a tremendous testament to the fact that in our nation every vote truly does count and that we should view it not only as a privilege but also a responsibility to participate."

Among various Southern Baptist leaders who joined Reccord in issuing comments to Baptist Press were:

• Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville and a native of Kosciusko: "I am elated and grateful for the record number of Americans who took seriously their civic responsibility and voted in the national elections yesterday. By all accounts, as an issue, moral values topped even concerns about the economy and security, for those who voted."

Importantly, the turnout by people of faith was a decisive factor in passing the 11 state initiatives to protect the definition of marriage as the union between one man and one woman."

Concerning the re-election of President Bush, Chapman said, "I look forward to four more years of leadership by a United States president who openly confesses his belief in the Lord Jesus Christ."

• James T. Draper Jr., president of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville: "The election is past. Americans have made their decision. Our duty now is to pray for President Bush and... for all those who are in authority so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity" (1 Timothy 2:2). The good news is that record numbers of Americans voted. It is clear that America, despite the massive attacks on biblical values, is still a nation of moral and spiritual conviction and commitment. I thank God that we have once again demonstrated the strength of our faith and depth of our patriotism."

• Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas: "This election was not about candidates or political parties. It was a referendum on marriage and on runaway judicial activism. It says that the vast majority of the American people recognize the intrinsic value of the home for a stable society. They also recognize that judges who wish to deconstruct the Constitution of the United States have done enough harm, and we need to go back to those who are strict constructionists."

"The concern that I have coming out of the election is for the 'blue states.' They represent a kind of thinking which, if it cannot be reversed, would eventually reduce us to the effeminate indecisiveness of European nations such as France. I pray that we will be able to do something to help the people of those states understand the nature of the American republic."

• Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.: "I am delighted that marriage between one man and one woman was affirmed in every state it was contested in this election. I am particularly grateful for the hard work done by Northwest Baptists in Oregon to win on this issue. They were on the forefront in this effort and did a great job under very difficult circumstances."

• Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.: "The 2004 election saw the moral concerns of America rise to the surface. The election of a pro-life/pro-marriage president, and the overwhelming support of marriage amendments from coast to coast, sent a clear signal across our great nation. Christians now should commit themselves to pray more fervently than ever for the elected leaders of America."

We must pray that they will make wise and godly decisions, promote righteousness and justice, and lead our nation to do those things that please God. Proverbs 14:34 teaches us that 'Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.' The 2004 election was a step in the right direction. However, we still have much to accomplish if ours is to be a nation that truly honors the true and living God."

• Phil Roberts, president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.: "The people of the United States have spoken. And they have chosen for their president a man who is self-confessedly born again, who prays daily, who reads his Bible systematically, who is unabashedly pro-life, supportive of free enterprise and a strong national defense, and who has taken a bold stance lawfully to wield the sword in order to defend and protect the people of the United States. This election, therefore, was a clear and resounding victory for moral values. It will likely appear clearer in the days ahead that the election was due largely to the fact that Christian people took seriously their responsibility as citizens to vote and express their convictions at the ballot box."

"The people's choice bodes well for the future of the United States — simultaneously, however, God's people need to be reminded that the greatest need for our nation is for heaven-sent, prayed-down revival. This election is a mercy from the Lord, but 'showers of blessings' we need if America is to experience the lasting spiritual change essential for thorough, moral spiritual awakening."

• Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary: "The Kingdom of God

is never affected by a presidential election, however the results of elections can make the work of the Kingdom more or less difficult. We rejoice in the election of President Bush and pray that it will lead to the further discussion and wider application of values we cherish. We also hope it will result in a growing openness of the world to religious liberty and the right of all people to hear the Gospel and respond in light of their conscience no matter what their family or ethnic origin might be."

• R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.: "I think there's no doubt that America spoke on values issues yesterday. You can look at an electoral map and you can see that the great heartland of America voted very clearly for the candidate that stood, as they understood it, for family, for the defense of the union of a man and a woman as the very definition of marriage — that stood for life against the wanton destruction of

human embryos and a whole host of issues. We also had 11 states actually voting on amendments related to marriage. And so, just given the exit polling data and the layout of the electoral results, it's clear that these moral issues were very much in the forefront of the nation's conscience."

"These issues are at the very top because we are actually dealing with where we live," Mohler said. "When we talk about an issue like marriage, we're not talking about something abstract and even something as remote as economic, fiscal and tax policy. We're talking about who marries whom. And that relates to every family. There's a deep commitment to marriage. That's one of the most reassuring aspects of yesterday's vote. All across America, there is a deep reservoir of support for what marriage is, and I think we should be very thankful for that."

"What happens when we have a great election day like yesterday is that you really find out where the nation is," Mohler said. "And I think, on these issues, it's clear that America is a more conservative country than a lot of people thought. That's not due to any kind of organized political effort. It's just a deep conviction. On other issues, I think there are many levels of debate. In this country, there's a clear division, which really needs our attention, between persons who have very different worldviews on these issues. But I think, in the long run, we will look back at yesterday as an historic election when the American people spoke very clearly about what was most important to them."

Mohler, in his Crosswalk.com weblog, took note of the vote in California to endorse \$3 billion in bonds for embryonic stem cell research.

"So, citizens of the nation's most populous state will now be involved in the systematic creation and destruction of human embryos, all in the name of medical science," Mohler commented. "For that state, November 2 is a day that will live in moral infamy."



Reccord



Chapman



Draper



Iorg



Akin



Roberts



Mohler



Kelley